

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 450

September 20, 1995, 1:13 p.m.
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AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS/Final Passage

SUBJECT: Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . H.R. 1976. Final passage, as amended.

ACTION: BILL PASSED, 95-3

SYNOPSIS: As passed, H.R. 1976, the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996, will provide \$63.78 billion in new budget authority, 80 percent of which will be for mandatory spending programs, and 63 percent of which will be for food welfare programs, as follows:

- Domestic food programs: \$40.271 billion, including \$28.097 billion for food stamps, \$7.953 billion for child nutrition programs, and \$3.730 billion for the Women, Infants, and Children Program;
- Agriculture programs: \$16.076 billion, including \$10.400 billion for the Commodity Credit Corporation (a \$5.100 billion decrease from fiscal year (FY) 1994);
- Conservation programs: \$2.696 billion;
- Rural development programs: \$2.167 billion;
- International food programs: \$1.628 billion; and
- related agencies: \$944 million, including \$874.6 million for the Food and Drug Administration and \$54.1 million for the Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

Provisions include the following:

- Seven rural development grant and loan programs will be consolidated into the Rural Community Advancement Program for savings of 15.9 percent;
- \$863.2 million will be provided for discretionary conservation programs, which is \$61.3 million more than provided for FY 1995; \$77 million will be provided for the Wetlands Reserve Program, with a limitation on the total amount of acreage that may be enrolled in the program of 100,000 acres (the President requested \$210 million and the House-passed bill will provide that amount; last year's funding level was \$93.2 million);

(See other side)

YEAS (95)				NAYS (3)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (50 or 94%)		Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (3 or 6%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Helms	Akaka	Hollings	Kyl		Hatfield- ^{3AY}	Pryor- ⁴
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Baucus	Inouye	McCain			
Bennett	Inhofe	Biden	Johnston	Roth			
Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kennedy				
Brown	Kassebaum	Boxer	Kerrey				
Burns	Kempthorne	Bradley	Kerry				
Campbell	Lott	Breaux	Kohl				
Chafee	Lugar	Bryan	Lautenberg				
Coats	Mack	Bumpers	Leahy				
Cochran	McConnell	Byrd	Levin				
Cohen	Murkowski	Conrad	Lieberman				
Coverdell	Nickles	Daschle	Mikulski				
Craig	Packwood	Dodd	Moseley-Braun				
D'Amato	Pressler	Dorgan	Moynihan				
DeWine	Santorum	Exon	Murray				
Dole	Shelby	Feingold	Nunn				
Domenici	Simpson	Feinstein	Pell				
Faircloth	Smith	Ford	Reid				
Frist	Snowe	Glenn	Robb				
Gorton	Specter	Graham	Rockefeller				
Gramm	Stevens	Harkin	Sarbanes				
Grams	Thomas	Heflin	Simon				
Grassley	Thompson		Wellstone				
Gregg	Thurmond						
Hatch	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

- The Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) will be funded at \$40 million;
- \$2.9 billion in total rural housing insurance fund loan authorizations will be provided;
- funds will not be used to enroll additional acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program in FY 1996;
- Commodity Credit Corporation funds will not be used to pay producers for 1995 cotton crop losses (see vote No. 439);
- funds will not be used to enforce the new labeling rule for chickens (see vote No. 444);
- Market Promotion Program (MPP) funds will not be used to promote the export of mink products (see vote No. 445);
- funding and authority over the Forest Service will be transferred from the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment to the Secretary of Agriculture (see vote No. 446);
- the MPP will receive \$70 million in funding and will operate under certain restrictions (see vote No. 449);
- implementation of the final rule on timber exports will be delayed for 120 days and no funds will be expended on activities that interfere with the primacy of State water law (see vote No. 446 for related debate);
- the Board of Tea Experts will be eliminated;
- Advisory committees on swine health and global climate change will be eliminated;
- funds will not be expended to grade or to inspect tobacco or to administer price support functions for tobacco; and
- funds will not be expended to carry out a price support or production adjustment program for peanuts.

Those favoring final passage contended:

This bill will provide \$5.2 billion less in budget authority than was provided last year. Despite that drastic decrease, key programs will receive adequate funding. For instance, the Women, Infants, and Children Program will receive a \$260 million increase, and agricultural research will be funded at \$1.025 billion, which is only slightly lower than the amount provided this year. Another important aspect of this bill is that it will consolidate numerous programs, consistent with the Agriculture Reorganization bill passed last Congress. It will not go as far as the Administration requested--the Administration's proposal was almost to give the Agriculture Department a block grant to let the Administration determine how all the money would be spent. We are not prepared to cede that much authority to the Executive Branch. A total of 80 percent of the spending in this bill is mandatory. Most of it, 63 percent, will be for various means-tested domestic food programs. This year those programs comprise 58 percent of the agriculture budget, and we remember a few years ago when farm programs still comprised a majority of the spending. Overall, this bill will carefully allocate extremely scarce discretionary funds to key initiatives, while at the same time achieving significant reductions in spending. We urge our colleagues to pass this commendable bill.

While favoring final passage, some Senators expressed the following reservations:

This bill contains provisions that will use mandatory savings to offset discretionary spending. We oppose this use. As Senators are aware, the authorizing committees are struggling to come up with mandatory savings to meet reconciliation targets. Some of the mandatory savings in this bill are being considered for reconciliation. Senators need to be careful not to end up double-counting savings. With this reservation, we will vote in favor of final passage.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to final passage.